

incorporating under the name Bomber Group 451st.

For the next 10 years, this small group of veterans donated items to the VA domiciliary and aided senior citizens in its Florida area by providing transportation for veterans to the VA hospital. The members realized they could make a bigger impact if they opened the organization to all veterans. So in 1989, they formed under the name Allied Veterans of the World.

Today, led by National Commander Johnny Duncan, Allied Veterans raises funds through bingo, car washes, cookouts and cyber centers. All funds directly benefit veteran or first responder organizations.

National Commander Duncan states, "Our veterans deserve the best medical attention possible, and we understand the challenges their health care system faces today. We are proud to be assisting the VA volunteers and medical professionals with funds that will help them better serve our healing veterans."

Allied Veterans has contributed to VA hospitals in Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina and Georgia supplementing federal programs for veterans such as recreation therapy, therapeutic supplies and homeless veterans programs.

In my district in Northeast Florida, the Allied Veterans have purchased flags of all the services to be used in our local hospices so that when a veteran is admitted into a program, his or her service flag stands watch at the veteran's door. This is a meaningful gesture very much appreciated by the veteran and his or her family members. The program allows the hospice staff a final chance to display honor and appreciation for the veteran's service. Allied Veterans of the World has donated over a million dollars to projects through VA medical centers, Fraternal Order of Police chapters, and other organizations that support veterans and first responders.

It is my honor to commend the Allied Veterans of the World and its National Commander Johnny Duncan and National Secretary Jerry Bass on a job well done.

Surely, this organization lives up to its motto Veterans helping Veterans.

COMMEMORATING THE REDEDICATION OF COMMANDER WILLIAM C. MCCOOL ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the rededication and the opening of the new Commander William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School on Naval Base Guam. The recent completion of this modern, state-of-the-art educational facility houses separate wings for the elementary and middle schools, administrative areas, a gymnasium, multipurpose rooms, a media center, cafeteria, and capacity for 850 students. Commander McCool embodied the ideal of being a lifetime learner, and his never-ending thirst for knowledge took him into space—an accomplishment that continues to inspire students and educators alike today.

Commander William "Willie" McCool attended Dededo Middle School in Dededo,

Guam and John F. Kennedy High School in Tamuning, Guam. After his graduation from the United States Naval Academy, Commander McCool was selected as a Navy test pilot and guided the space shuttle *Columbia* on Mission STS-107 in 2003. A son of Guam, Commander McCool carried the flag of Guam on that mission.

From the flight deck of the *Columbia*, Commander McCool stated, "From our orbital vantage point, we observe an Earth without borders, full of peace, beauty and magnificence, and we pray that humanity as a whole can imagine a borderless world as we see it and strive to live as one in peace." These words will inspire students at this school for many years to come.

On February 22, 2003, I introduced H.R. 672, a bill to rename the Guam South Elementary/Middle School, previously located in Apra Heights, Guam, in honor of Commander McCool. The bill was signed into law by President George W. Bush on April 11, 2003, and today, as we commemorate the rededication of the new Commander William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School, there is no doubt that Willie McCool's legacy continues to touch the hearts and minds of us all.

I would like to congratulate former Commander Naval Forces Marianas RADM Patrick W. Dunne, former Commander Naval Forces Marianas RADM Charles J. Leidig, former Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) Superintendent Mr. Michael Diekmann, and former school Principal Mr. William Hall for their guidance, leadership, and oversight in the design and construction of Commander William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School. I would also like to congratulate Commander Naval Forces Marianas RADM William D. French, DODEA Superintendent Dr. Gayle Vaughn-Wiles, and Principal Mr. Stanley Chop for their roles in the completion of the new Commander William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School.

I would like to commend the family of Commander McCool for their strength and to honor them for their commitment to furthering his legacy. I want to first recognize his wife, Lani Vallejos McCool and his three sons Sean, Christopher and Cameron. I also want to recognize his parents Barry and Audrey McCool and his parents-in-law Albert and Atilana Vallejos. Our community thanks all of you for your graciousness in helping us to commemorate Commander McCool's life through the dedication of this school and for sharing his memory with the students and faculty. Through this tribute, we want you to know that you have a very large extended family and this school is your school; these students are your students; this tribute is your living memorial.

As our community gathers to rededicate this school on September 30, 2008, let us renew our commitment to excellence exemplified by the hero whose name graces this structure. On the occasion of the rededication of Commander William C. McCool Elementary School, let us recall his inspiring words, of ". . . an Earth without borders, full of peace, beauty and magnificence . . .".

RECOGNITION OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS OF ARKANSAS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the dedicated people at the Rainbow of Challenges in Hope, Arkansas and the South Arkansas Developmental Center for Children and Families, Inc. These are just a few of many organizations in Arkansas that are helping thousands of disabled individuals gain access to needed support services.

Unfortunately, there is an increasing workforce shortage threatening the quality of these services available in Arkansas and throughout the nation. Without an adequately paid, trained and dedicated workforce, our nation's disabled individuals and their families face a less secure future. Without the necessary workforce, providers can not help our nation fulfill its commitment to people with disabilities as intended by Congress's passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For this reason, I am a cosponsor of the Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act of 2007 (H.R.1279). This important legislation would provide funds to states to enable them to increase the wages paid to targeted direct support professionals in providing services to individuals with disabilities under the Medicaid Program. It is essential that the House of Representatives pass this legislation and bring it one step closer to being signed into law.

I applaud the work of these Arkansas organizations for taking a lead and coming to Washington, DC this month to advocate for improvements on this workforce issue. There is no better way to recognize their contribution to the nation than by passing this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NEAL E. BOYD

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who has inspired Americans in my congressional district and across our great nation. Mr. Neal E. Boyd is from Sikeston, Missouri, in the Eighth Congressional District and, in him, I am lucky to represent one of the most talented singers of opera in our country. Mr. Boyd has risen to national prominence in recent weeks, but we in Southern Missouri have long known about his superior ability as a singer. Whether he is singing Puccini or our National Anthem, Mr. Boyd does so with such rare emotion and sensitivity that it brings tears to many more eyes than my own.

I am also fortunate to know Mr. Boyd personally. He is a caring person who has always put the interests of his family and his community ahead of his own. He is shy, but he is not shy with his gift. He is modest, but his voice is brazen and strong. He is selfless with his art, with his time, and with his heart—and he is unfailingly kind.

Through hard work and dedication to his craft, Mr. Boyd has shown the cliché to be